Synopsis of Book

Title : British Dum Dum
Sub Title : 1747-1947 : Role of Dum Dum in unrevealed chapter of British period
Language : Bengali

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The time line of the *British Dum Dum* is 1747-1947. The first part of the British administration in India was conducted by East India Company and the second part of it by the British Crown. The history of *British Dum Dum* was mainly covered by the first part, i.e., East India Company's rule. During Company's period, India was divided into three Presidencies, and among them Bengal Presidency was the largest one. The armed service of Bengal Presidency was termed as 'Bengal Army'. Bengal Army had three divisions – Bengal Cavalry, Bengal Infantry and Bengal Artillery. Dum Dum was the head quarter of Bengal Artillery. Due to immaculate military excellence, Bengal Artillery played an important role to expand British colonial power in India. So, grandness of the city Dum Dum was unquestionable in British India. *British Dum Dum* mainly focuses on the important incidents involving British people of Dum Dum in the colonial period. Moreover, history of *British Dum Dum* is not only a history of a suburban city of the then British capital Calcutta, it had a very vital connection with Indian history as well as transnational history.

As the headquarter of Bengal Artillery, most of the senior artillery officers came from Woolwich or Addiscombe Military colleges, UK. As a result, Dum Dum was the destination of the most of brilliant & efficient officers. Dum Dum was not only the workplace for them, they had actually loved the city as their homeland. These British Artillery soldiers established 'white colony' centering Clive House, Mall Road of Dum Dum & obviously along the peripheral zone of Dum Dum Cantonment. At the time of British East India Company rule, the army department also conducted the civic administration. So at that time eminent administrative officers came from Bengal Artillery, in particular from Dum Dum Cantonment. Efficient British researchers,

historians., surveyors, doctors, authors, mathematicians, scientists carried their jobs centering at Dum Dum. A list of senior officers of the Bengal Artillery is incorporated in this book with their biographies in a well documented way. Among them, eighteen well named army officers are highlighted with their detailed biographies, such as – Sir George Everest, Lieutenant Ralph Smith, Major General Thomas Hardwick, Sir John William Kay, Captain Edmund Buckle, Colonel Francis William Stubbs, Major Captain Arthur Broome, Sir John Horsford, Captain Samuel Parlby, Major General William Hopper, Sir Henry Montgomery Lawrence, Lieutenant Colonel William Tolly, Charles Samuel Pollock Parrish, Field Marshal George Pollock, Major General Henry Grace, Captain James Waterhouse, Captain James Young and founder members of 'Bengal Club'.

Cossipore Gun & Shell Factory is known as the first ordnance factory in India, but evidences shows that Dum Dum Arsenal Laboratory manufactured lots of excellent arms and ammunitions much before than Cossipore GSF complementing arms section of Fort William, Calcutta. The model masters of Dum Dum Arsenal taught the Britishers to use of rocket competing with Woolwich Laboratory, UK. First British Governor Robert Clive came to India as a petty clerk, but when he returned home he carried a lot of belongings with him. Drastically change in his career and fate was possible when he lived in Dum Dum. This book emphasizes on the notorious 'Dum Dum Bullet', once which stirred the international politics of 20th century. First time, the native soldiers of Dum Dum refused to use controversial cartridge of Enfield Rifle and revolted against the British authority. Dum Dum was the first place of Revolt of 1857, i.e., First War of Independence or Sepoy Revolt. At the beginning well-known 'Black Fever' was also known as 'Dum Dum Fever'. It is an interesting fact of medical science that the germ of this fever was first indentified from the spleen of a soldier of Dum Dum.

Three churches more than two hundred years old are found in Dum Dum. Detailed history of these churches are incorporated in *British Dum Dum*. Moreover this book emphasizes the activities of missionary societies of British India who were working in Dum Dum and as well as India. They played a glorious role in the educational sector. Artillery Theatre of Dum Dum, commonly known as 'Dum Dum Theatre' was the pioneering theatre group in 19th century of Indian theater. Dum Dum was the nourishing place of English sports in colonial period, such as – pig sticking, cricket, football golf, horse riding, racket etc. First multinational company of world – Jessop & Co. established their magnificent factory shed in Dum Dum. Bird & Co. played a significant role in Indian industrialization centering Dum Dum. India's first audio recording studio and factory – Gramaphone Company was established in Dum Dum. Gigantic elevated overhead water tank – Tala Tank is situated in Dum Dum. International Airport of Dum Dum is the gateway of South East Asia, Historic Dum Dum Raliway Station is an important junction of India, several important roadways with one National Highway are running through Dum Dum.

Dum Dum is a historic city emerged far before the British Colonial rule. The book *British Dum Dum* portrays a picture of the historical and developmental process of a forgotten city that has attracted a huge array of foreigners. The buildings, churches, monuments, canons etc located at Dum Dum and its environs are still carrying the memories of the visiting Dutch, Portuguese, British and other overseas people. *British Dum Dum* explores these stories in a well informative and attractive way with the proper citations.

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